

Fort Totten Hospital
Fort Totten State Historic Site
12 miles southwest of Devils Lake City
off Route 57
Devils Lake Vicinity
Benson County
North Dakota

HABS No. ND-10

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PHOTOGRAPHS
AND
DESCRIPTIVE ARCHITECTURAL DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

STATE NORTH DAKOTA	COUNTY BENSON	TOWN OR VICINITY DEVILS LAKE VICINITY
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) FORT TOTTEN HOSPITAL		HABS NO. ND-10
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) Fort Totten State Historic Site, 12 mi. SW of Devils Lake City off Rt. 57		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1869 or 1870	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Contractors Dale and Stead	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) An excellent, well-preserved example of a military post of the Indian War period in the trans-Mississippi West.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) The walls are brick. A rubble foundation supports the building. The structural system consists of load-bearing brick masonry walls with wooden interior framing.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) The T-shaped, two-story hospital measures 141'-1" (eleven-bay front) x 73'-3".		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE The porches are simple wooden projections with wooden columns painted white. Hip roofs are used on the side wings and attached rear building. A lower hipped roof finished with a flat deck (original location of a cupola topped with an open skeletal frame) is used on the main two-story structure. A combination wood and brick cornice was originally used throughout the hospital, but remains exp		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) An enclosed stair is located in the extreme southwest corner of the main building. See attached sheet for detailed floor plans.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES None of the exterior openings appear to be of original size, all having been plastered at a later date.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE The over-all condition of the hospital is good.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE See Fort Totten State Historic Site, HABS No. ND-17, for additional report of the hospital.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Data is based on HABS Work Sheet, written August 21, 1972. National Register list:		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Susan McCown, historian, Historic American Buildings Survey		DATE April 8, 1980

Cont. of EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE

only on the side wings. The attached rear building has a simple wooden cornice, and the main two-story structure has a more elaborate wooden cornice with small wooden brackets at the corners.

FLOOR PLANS:

The Hospital contains a two story administration building, 36' x 37', two one story wards, 47' x 26', arranged as wings, an attached one story rear building, 36' x 20', and a cellar or basement under the entire structure. The main entrance leads into an entrance hall with rooms on each side and continues past a hallway, connecting the two side wings, to the administration-information center as the building is now being used as a museum. The original stair has been removed from the hallway, and the new one is located in the extreme southwest corner of the structure. The east and west wings 47' x 26' are one story consisting of one large room but originally were divided into a ward 33' x 24', a bathroom 11' x 9', and a water closet of the same size with a passage 6' x 11' leading to an exterior door. The rear building, originally 21'-6" x 14'-0" contained a kitchen and pantry, now has been enlarged to a single dining room 20' x 36' with two smaller additions, a kitchen to the east and a stairway to the cellar on the west. The second floor is divided into five rooms, three on the north side of the stairway corridor and two rooms with a hall separating them on the south side.